

Reading Assignment 15: Russell and Logicism

REQUIRED READINGS

Russell 1993. Chapters 1 and 2.

QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, summarize Russell's distinction between mathematical philosophy and ordinary mathematics. Give an example of each.
2. According to Russell, what is the ``fairly recent'' discovery of mathematicians, and how did Pythagoras present an obstacle to this discovery?
3. According to Russell, what was Frege's contribution to mathematics and how was it related to nineteenth century analysts' attempts to ``arithmetize'' analysis?
4. For what two reasons does Russell think it's problematic to say the zero, number, and successor are simply whatever satisfy Peano's axioms?
5. Define ``similar'' and explain how Russell's definition of number employs the definition of ``similar.''

REFERENCES

- [1] B. Russell. *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*. United States: Dover Publications, 1993.